

City of Cincinnati



Interdepartmental
Correspondence Sheet

June 25, 2003

To Mayor and Members of City Council
From Valerie A. Lemmie, City Manager
Subject After Action Report – Meeting with University of Cincinnati

Reference: Document #200306783

The Neighborhood & Public Services Committee, at its session on May 7, 2003, referred the following item for report:

MOTION, dated 5/6/03, submitted by Councilmember Pepper, that Cincinnati Police Department officials, University of Cincinnati officials, and neighborhood and student leaders, meet and establish a strategy to assure that incidents such as what occurred Saturday do not occur in the future, and, if they do occur, that City laws are fully enforced. Such a strategy should include adoption of best practices undertaken in other university towns after similar incidents, such as: Student Code of Conduct rules that discipline students for incidents that occur off-campus that harm the community (Ohio State, Michigan State, Maryland and other schools have all made changes to provide discipline for off-campus unruliness); Prevention: review and reform of prevention procedures for such incidents, and mutual cooperation in anticipating and avoiding incidents; Accountability: active review of video tapes of the incident, by both City Police officials and University officials, to assure that all perpetrators are held accountable for their actions (Ohio State posted pictures of students on its website) and that ongoing cooperation between the City and University is contingent on the effective implementation of such a strategy, so that residents of the area can be assured that any new developments undertaken in the area will not undermine the safety and quality of life there.

On May 15, 2003 a Student Disturbance Committee convened to discuss the recent riot on Stratford Avenue and explore strategies to minimize the likelihood of similar disturbances from occurring in the future. The Committee is comprised of Captain Thomas Johns, District Five Commander, the University of Cincinnati Vice President for Student Affairs and Services as well as other University officials.

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The committee deemed it important to include neighborhood and student leaders and owners of adjacent off-campus residential properties in future discussions. The initial meeting focused on the following issues:

University of Cincinnati policy regarding off-campus student behavior

The University of Cincinnati will explore the possibility of revising its current student code of conduct to include off-campus misconduct as well.

Prevention

The Ohio State University Task Force on Preventing Celebratory Riots report was disseminated to all in attendance. Members will review this report and discuss its contents and recommendations at the next meeting.

Accountability

Cincinnati Police investigators are reviewing all available videotapes and photographs to identify perpetrators of criminal behavior concerning the Stratford Avenue disturbance. Presently, six individuals have been indicted by the Grand Jury. Further indictments are expected as the investigation continues.

The agenda for the next meeting will include discussions regarding property owner responsibility and the need for any additional information to assist committee members in formulating an organized and comprehensive set of recommendations to address the problem. The committee will provide recommendations to City Council at the conclusion of its work.

cc: Lt. Colonel Cindy M. Combs, Acting Police Chief